

Historical houses

Thursday, February 22, 1968

DUXBURY CLIPPER

RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD HOUSES

By Mabel R. Bates

On the left by the main road on a short street is the Lucia Harlow house. A story goes with this house. Walter Crowell of Wollaston was visiting a friend, Arthur Dawes, of the old Taylor house in Marshfield, and they were riding by the Harlow house one day when noticed an auction going on there. They discovered the house was being sold. They bid on it, and Crowell bought it, repaired it and lived there summers. They were our neighbors and true friends from that day on. When they were unable to come to Duxbury, they sold the place to Sumner Whittier. Then, after the Salts lived there awhile, the Leonard Johnsons bought it. Mrs. Johnson still lives there.

The Harriman house is the next oldest on Enterprise St. It is near Coxe's Corner. The Harrimans lived there when I came to Millbrook. My husband tells the story of the terrible thunder shower when James MacNaught's barn was struck by lightning and John (Jack) Alden was killed. Mr. Bates Sr. drove his horse and hay wagon into the Harriman barn on the way from the hayfield home. Later the Terrys lived there before it became the Sartorius antique shop (right behind Craftsmen's Corner). After the first Mrs. Sartorius died, the second ran an antique business, and when Mr. Sartorius remarried a second time, it was still a flourishing business.

Next on the west is the Norris LaFleur house, and now we are on Tremont St. A Mrs. Cox once lived there, whence the name of the corner. Later Warren Prince's brother Albert lived there; still later a King family occupied the house. Mr. King was proprietor of the Duxbury Inn, later the residence of the Marshall Dwinells. King's children were Elsie, Laura, Jessie and George. I went to grammar school with George. Then Andrew Delano lived there.

Now I want to take you up the hill by the LaFleurs to the old Atwell home. It was built in 1780, and was later owned by Edwin Loring, a mason, who was father of Edwin Loring, owner of Millbrook Motors. Chester Bates' father, Robert, and his brother Ernest worked for him. Mr. Loring had five children: Elizabeth, who died young, Gladys, who now owns the house; twins -- Ronald and Donald -- Franklin and Edwin, Jr. Gladys comes to the place summers.

The Hiram Barstow place adjoins the Loring house. My sister and I kept house for Mr. Barstow while his wife was visiting her daughter, Mrs. Slocum, in Everett. The Slocums came a few summers to Duxbury. Mr. Barstow was well known for his sweet turnips he raised. He died, and a Bonney family moved in and took care of Mrs. Barstow. She used to call on me, as I lived about three houses from theirs; one day she was found drowned in back of her house. She had told the Bonneys she was going to call on me. When she did not return, they came to my house looking for her. Evidently she strayed off and never reached me. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Day bought the house and lived there several years.

On the same side of the street is the Daniel Lucius Soule house. Two women named Kent owned it before the Soules did. I remember Mrs. Soule's mother, whom we called "Grandma Winsor." I also knew Mr. and Mrs. Soule and some of their children. Eden was our town surveyor and superintendent of streets. Sidney was selectman from 1908 until 1942. He was born here and died in this house. Also born in the house were Lucy, William, Bessie and Hattie. I went to school with Hattie and worked with her at Dr. Nathaniel Noyes' when Edwin was a little boy. As children, we had crackers and milk for supper every Sunday. We bought our milk from the Soules and always enjoyed calling on them. William worked for the Boston Gas Co. for years. Lucy married John Morrison, our tree warden. Bessie married Lucius Peterson and lived in the first house mentioned in this history.

Sidney's son Fred, and his wife Chris, own the old homestead now and have made a beautiful place there. Across the street is the Capt. John Weston place. He was my great-

grandfather. My grandmother, Frances Weston White, was born here. She had three brothers-- Hiram, Alonzo, and John, who was Harry MacNaught's father. My grandmother Frances, the only girl, married George White when she was 17 and lived in an old house on the shore of North River. Her children were George E., Mary and Henry F. White, my father. Some of my relatives are buried in a tomb on Weston land near Millbrook Motors. My father repaired the door to the tomb. Many persons were buried on their own land in those days.

Eden Soule married Lucy Ann Weston and owned the place now owned by Fred Soule. The land includes an apple orchard on Church St. I once picked blueberries near our home when I lived off Church St. with my children.

The original Weston place is in a valley halfway between West and Church streets, where the George Damons live now. The Simmons family lived there after the Westons, and their descendants still do.